From: Don Tillman
To: Microsoft ATR,dtillman@wright.edu@inetgw
Date: 11/20/01 8:58am
Subject: Suggestions.. probably not the first ;)

Greetings!

My name is Don Tillman. I am the Computer Engineer with Wright State University's Department of Psychology. I have been working with computers for 17 years, 12 years professionally. Over the years I have been watching Microsoft and the industry in a microscopic and macroscopic fashion. From all of my reading about Microsoft (books, magazines and journals) and from my experiences as a technician of hardware and software (Mac, Windows(PC), and Unix) I have come to some conclusions.

*It is clear that Microsoft is a monopoly.

*They are a monopoly in our department because of their Office software.

*They are a monopoly with other software developers since Microsoft owns about 90% of the market share (operating systems): Software developers hardly want to consider developing for the Macintosh (Apple Computer) or Linux(Unix) since they seem to only have such a small market share. This is a BIG problem. This only helps the monopoly that Microsoft has.

*It is clear that Microsoft has been helping it's own application developers with it's own undisclosed documentation about it's API's and they have abused that information to beat the competition by developing faster and more efficiently with those API's.

It is clear that WE NEED a STRONG remedy for the situation.

Your current remedy is not strong enough. Here is what I propose...

1) Microsoft open all of it's file format for all of it's application software for 10 years. This would include Microsoft Office et. al. This would allow developers to write competing Office software that is file compatible with Microsoft's. This is crucial since competition cannot exist without being compatible with the biggest office suite in existence.

2) A true breakup of Microsoft. It is clear that they are abusing their power and the only way to stop that (considering that they have not been coperative on reasonable terms) is by making the giant smaller. Peroid. Here are the groups:
    Applications (Office etc.)
    Operating Systems
    Software development tools
    Games and gaming hardware

Educational Software

This will force Microsoft to behave by forcing to live by the rules that
it has imposed on other companies in terms of competition and access to
relevant API's.

Microsoft has had years to work with you and other companies politely
and kindly. They have done nothing but stonewall the process and
manipulate the media and deliberately piss off Judge Jackson so that
they could trash his ruling. It is VERY OBVIOUS that Microsoft seems to
think that they have to answer to no one. I SAY THAT THEY ARE WRONG! A
slap on Microsoft's wrist is the wrong message. They need to be emasculated!

Sincerely,
Don Tillman